

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/973,574  
Applicant : Waring et al.  
Filed : October 9, 2001  
Title : Chemical Processing System

TCA.U. : 3714  
Examiner : Harry D. Wilkins, III

Docket No. : 104874-141919

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Commissioner for Patents

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all accompanying papers, if any, are being sent via facsimile to facsimile no. 703-872-9306 on the date indicated below.

Name: Louis S. Sorell, Reg. No. 32,439 Date: December 6, 2004

AMENDMENT

To the Commissioner:

In response to an Official Action dated September 3, 2004, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments and remarks for consideration by the Examiner in the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

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PAGE 4/13 \*RCVD AT 12/6/2004 12:10:39 PM [Eastern Standard Time]\* SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-13\*DNIS:8729306\*CSID:2123553333\*DURATION (mm:ss):03:58

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and Stadler et al. would impermissibly change the basic principle of operation of Bradley et al., which is the simultaneous sealing and coating step. See MPEP § 2143.01 at p. 2100-132 (citation omitted) (the teachings of the references are insufficient to render claims *prima facie* obvious when the proposed modification or combination of the references would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8 and 15, together with Claims 2 and 4 (ultimately dependent on Claim 1) and Claims 9-13 (ultimately dependent on Claim 8) are nonobvious and patentable over Bradley et al. in combination with Hartman et al. and Stadler et al.

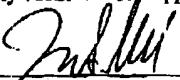
Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fees, including any extension and/or excess claim fees, any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Goodwin Procter LLP Deposit Account No. 06-0923.

Respectfully submitted for Applicant,



Louis S. Sorell, Esq. (Reg. No. 32,439)  
GOODWIN PROCTER LLP  
599 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 459-7421